

Pusey House  
West side of Woodview Road, at McCue Road,  
South of London Grove Road  
Chatham Vicinity (London Grove Township)  
Chester County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-158

HABS,  
PA,  
IS-CHATM.V,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-158

## PUSEY HOUSE

Location: West side of Woodview Road, at McQue Road, south of London Grove Road, Chatham Vicinity (London Grove Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: George C. Pusey, Avondale, Pennsylvania.

Statement of Significance: The Pusey House is a good example of an early eighteenth century house which was expanded as needed. It also contains some excellent original interior woodwork and hardware with unusual features such as a concealed sliding desk.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

1. William Pusey 1699 to Tobias Collet et al.
2. Tobias Collet et al. 1718 to William Pusey.
3. William Pusey's exec. 1736 to John Pusey.
4. John Pusey 1736 to Joshua Pusey.
5. Joshua Pusey 1760 to Joshua Pusey, Jr.
6. Joshua Pusey, Jr. 1804 to Lea Pusey.
7. Lea Pusey 1826 to Isaac Pusey.
8. Isaac Pusey 1842 to Joshua B. Pusey.
9. Joshua B. Pusey 1870 to Maria S. Pusey.
10. Maria S. Pusey's exec. 1886 to Emily Pusey.
11. Emily Pusey 1912 to Edwin Chambers.
12. Edwin Chambers 1919 to Edith G. Thomas.
13. Edith G. Thomas' exec. 1920 to Charles M. Thomas and Warren I. Lupold.
14. Charles M. Thomas and Warren I. Lupold 1921 to Warren I. Lupold.
15. Warren I. Lupold 1921 to Cranston B. Spencer.
16. Cranston B. Spencer 1921 to Warren I. Lupold.
17. Warren I. Lupold 1951 to George C. Pusey.

2. Date of erection: The original stone section (center) was built in 1728 by William Pusey; the east wing was added circa 1740 by his son Joshua Pusey; the west wing was added circa 1815.

3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Unknown.

4. Original plans, construction: The original 1728 stone house contained two rooms on the first floor and either two or three rooms and a hall on the second floor. This section currently has three rooms and a hall and the board partitions are old, but have been changed somewhat. The changes were certainly made very early, possibly by Joshua Pusey, Jr. (1738-1804). He married three times and had a total of seventeen children, all but one grew to maturity in this house, and fifteen of the seventeen married.

5. Alterations and additions: A brick wing was added to the east of the original stone house circa 1740. This wing had two rooms on each floor. Circa 1815 another brick wing was added, to the west of the original stone house. This wing had two rooms on the first floor and three rooms on the second floor. The partitions on the second floor of the original stone house have been altered (see preceding section).

In 1851 Jacob Pusey, a great-grandson of William Pusey, said that he remembered as a youth seeing "W.E.P." (William and Elizabeth Pusey) on the gable of a portico over the front door, and also that the date 1728 showed on a stone. Jacob (born 1792) also said there was a bench seat on each side of the portico at the front door. the 1704 Brinton House of Chester County has such an entrance. These features have since been removed.

6. References: Sources of information, clipping and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, under the heading: London Grove Twp. Lands. Also road papers, deeds and wills in the Courthouse, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

William Pusey, who built the original stone house, came to Chester County early, and was a member of Chester Mts. in 1707 when he married. He moved to New Garden in 1715 or 1716; part of New Garden later became London Grove Township. He was a weaver and a miller. The location of his first home is not known, but certainly it was very close to the present house, for the mill was there before any part of the present house was built.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: \*None known.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. Abstract of will and inventory of Joshua Pusey, London Grove: -  
dated 8th mo.16.1760 and probated Sept.1.1760. "...I then  
Give her my loveing wife/all the Brick end of this my  
dwelling house with the Cellar under it during her  
widdowhood..."

It may be noted that she survived her husband only six days.

List of rooms mentioned in the inventory of Joshua Pusey, the above, who  
died 1760:

"new house Backroom below"  
"Front room below"  
"Back room up Stairs"  
"Front do"  
"his desk room in old House"  
"Back room up Stairs"

Besides these the contents of the large kitchen and two bed rooms are  
also listed. This inventory was filed Oct.1.1760.

-----  
Very interesting inventories of the estates of Joshua Pusey, died  
1804 and of Joshua B. Pusey who died 1870, both in this house, are  
on file at the Court House, West Chester, Pa.

2. An Inventory of all and singular the goods and Chattels  
rights and Credits of Joshua Pusey late of London grove  
Township in the County of Chester which came to the hands of  
us John Allen William Jackson and Thomas Harlan appraisers  
the thirtieth day of the ninth Month Anno Dom:1760-

His personal Apparell	L 15..10..	
his Rideing horse Saddle and Bridle	17 5..	
his Purse	114.. 0..0	
Bonds and Bills with their Several Interest to such times as by list thereof bearing even date herewith and Certifyed under the appraisers hands	893.. 7..6	1040..2..8
Promisary Notes	111..18..1	
Book Debts as p <sup>r</sup> list thereof also	161.. 2..1	
One feather Bed and furniture thereunto belonging	20.. 0..	
One other Bed and Do w <sup>th</sup> low Bedsteds	10.. ..	293..0..2
One Large Oval Table	1..10..	
1 Case of drawers 4..10.0 5 frame 1 arm Chairs <sup>L</sup> 1:10	6.. 0.0	
1 pair of and Irons fire shovel and Tongs	...10..	

new house  
Backroom below

Front room below

1 Large Oval Table	2..10..
One Rush Bottom Couch & Couch Bed	1..10..
One poplar Closepress	.. 15..
Six rush bottomed chairs 1 arm Ditto	1 7
One Looking glass 1..10, one Tea Table 15/	2 5
Tongs fireshovel and Irons 7/6, small bellows 7/6	15
One Case of Bottles 10/	10
Eighteen delf plates & 2 dishes, & 3 sm <sup>l</sup> Ditto	15
Nine delf Bowls, one China Do	9

28 16 .

Back  
room  
up  
Stairs

Fourteen china Tea cups and dishes	1 15
Sundry earthen Tea pots 20/, Six Large Silver spoons 5	6
Thirteen small D <sup>o</sup> , spoons and Tea Tongs	1 15
Seven Yards and a half of Linnen Cloth	1
One Feather Bed and furniture thereunto belonging	16
One small sq <sup>r</sup> Table 15/, one Case of Drawers 2..10..0	3 5
Six rush Bottomed Chairs 1..4, one Sm <sup>l</sup> looking glass, 2/	1 14

Front  
Do

One Feather Bed and furniture thereunto belonging	11
One Case of drawers 2..10, Three frame Chairs 10/	3 3
24 Yards of Linnen in remnants	1 16
9 Yards of D <sup>o</sup> (fine) 20/ 13 yds. of Check Lin <sup>n</sup> , 26/	2 6
9 1/2 yds of striped D <sup>o</sup> , 15/, 4 yds of striped Linsey 10/	1 5
4 yds. of Buckram 6/ one sm <sup>l</sup> Deer Skin 4/	10
1 Dozen of drinking glasses & 12 glass Bottles 14/	14

51 3..

Inventory Continued

1 Brot over

1-1413.1.8

Four Yards of Calicoe	15
One Old Feather Bed and furniture	6 0
One old Desk 3L, one small oval Table, 2/6	3 2 6
one pair of Tongs 4/, 4 Candlesticks (Brass) 10/.	14 0
a Quantity of Old Silver 18/, Silver Buckles 14/	1 12
His Silver Watch	7 10
One small dressing Box & small Trunk	5
four Table Cloths 1 10 0, 8 Napkins Tea Cloths & Towels 15/2	5
one Silk handkerchief 4/, 4 pillow Cases & 2 p <sup>r</sup> of sheets	21.101 14
One Leather Trunk 7/6, one Warming pan 7/6	15
One Poplar Cupboard	5
Two old Square Tables 5/, 6 old frame Chairs 1	1 5
One Leather bottomed Couch 15/, his old Clock	3 15
One Large Spining wheel 10/, flat & Box Iron 12/	1 2

30 19

Back room  
up  
Stairs

And Irons fire shovel and Tongs	15 0
One Feather Bed and furniture (by Chimney)	8
One Ditto & Do. w <sup>th</sup> low Bedsteads	6
One Truckle Bed 20/, 2 old Chairs 3/	1 3 0
One Large poplar Chest 10/, 1 Chalf Bed 2	2 10
One Chalf Bed 2 One Do, 11.10, 1 old Chest 2/	3 12
One Sm <sup>l</sup> Spining Wheel 10/, 3 frying pans 9/	19
other Lumber in ye garrot	1 0

One large Brass Kettle L4.10, one sml Do 6/	4	16	
3 Iron pots and hooks & one Scallet	1	15	
1 Spit & Bread Toaster 3/, 2 Tea Kettles 20/	1	3	
2 Sml.Brass Scallets 5/		5	31 13
a Quantity of Pewter (pr. list of Particulars) 4/	5	7	0
Old Pewter L.10, 1/1/2 dozen patty pans 1/2 Doz.older	1	14	
1 Copper			
1 Tin Coffe pot & grater 10/, 2 funnels & pep <sup>r</sup> Box 2/		12	
1 Sm <sup>r</sup> pepper Mill 6/ 1 Brass Scimmer 3/		9	
4 Dozen knives and forks 12/, Cedar Ware 15/	1	7	
6 double Barrels	1	10	
3 old Do, 6 Barrels & 3 old hogsheads 17/ & 3 Kags 4/	1	11	
One Crosscut Saw 10/, Bran & shorts in Ye Mill 3L	3	10	
1 p <sup>r</sup> of Hedge Cheers, Iron griddle and old Cards	0	10	
a Quantity of Hay in ye Barn & Cow house	9		
Do, in a Stack in the Meadow	1		
a Quantity of Wheat in the Dneaf			
One Brownish Cow wth some white on her face 5L	5		
One Redish Do wth Do L4.10	4	10	
			35 15

[page 3] Inventory Continued

		Brought over	1511-9-2
One Red Cow 3.0.0 One Black Do, 3.10	L	6 10	
One Old Red Do, 3.10.0, One Red Heifer L2.10	5	6	
One Brown Cow wth white face 3L One Yearlin Heif <sup>r</sup> L2.	5	5	
One Brown 2 year old Steer 3L 1 Red Yearlin Do. 2.0.0	5		
One three Year old Bull 4L, Three spring Calves L2.5.7	6	5	
One Bay horse 12L, One Black Mair 8.0.0	20		
One 3 year old Brown Colt	10.0.0		
One Waggon and Cart Bed	10	8	
geers for three horses L1.10, One old Side Saddle L1.	3.		
Sythe and Hangings 5/, sis forkas & six rakes 7/6		12 6 70	
Twenty three sheep	6	18	
Works of Thos Broxmley 4/, Pensylv.Laws 15/		19	
Sewills History 10/ Nelsons Justice 2 Voll. 7/6		17 6	
One Large Old Bible 5/ Chalkleys Journl. 4/		9	
No Cross no Crown 2/ One of Pens Journls 7/6		9 6	
Fothergil's Journl. 3/ Works of Thos. Story 20/	1	3	
Twenty three Swine	10	12	
Flax in the Sheaf and some Flaxseed	1	10	
Sundry Cooper's ? & old Hoe		6	
Small grindstone and Iron hangings		3	
Spade, maul wedges and a pitching ax		10	
One old Gun & pld grubing Ax	1		
One Old Flow and Irons 15/, 2 old Axes 2/6		17 6	
A Servant Girls time	8		
			35 7

amount L 1616. 16..2

Appraised by us the day and  
Year above sd

John Allen  
William Jackson  
Thos. Farlan

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The original 1728 stone house was enlarged by the addition of a brick wing to the east circa 1740 and one to the west circa 1815. Some excellent original interior woodwork and hardware, with unusual features such as a concealed sliding desk, remain.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The present U-shaped house was built in three sections. The original stone center section measures 27'-6" (four-bay front) X 38'. There is a brick wing to the east which measures 18' (two-bay front) X 39'-6" and a brick wing to the west which is 16' (two-bay front) X 35'. All three sections are two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: The original house (center section) is stone and both the east and west wings are brick. The walls are partially stuccoed and painted.
4. Chimneys: Stone on original house; brick on east and west additions.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
  - b. Windows and shutters: All seem original.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Steep pitch gable roof, with modern roofing.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Seem original in each section.
  - c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The original house has two rooms on the first floor and three on the second; east wing has two rooms on each floor; west wing has two rooms on the first floor and three on the second.
2. Stairways: Stairways in each of the three sections seem original.
3. Flooring: All seems original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, except in the north room on the second floor of the east wing which has exposed beamed ceiling and board partitions.
5. Doorways and doors: Nearly all original.
6. Trim: Seems original, except in the west room of the original house where the fireplace has been made smaller and there is little trim.
7. Hardware: Much original hardware remains.
8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
9. Heating: All fireplaces remain, although two have been made smaller.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south and is on a gentle slope on the west side of the road, with a mill on the east side of the road.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: There are remains of several.
4. Walks, driveways: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens: Well-kept lawn.

Prepared by Bart Anderson-May 1959  
Curator, Chester County Historical Society